5th February 1925]

Irrigation.

Regulation of field irrigation.

* 110 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department subordinates regulate field irrigation ;

(*b*) if so, whether they are guided by the applications for water ;

(*c*) whether there are any principles adopted in the disposal of applications and certification of irrigability for granting water-supply to lands ;

(*d*) if so, the tests which go to decide the irrigability or otherwise of lands for granting permits for permanent supply or for transferring the lands to permanent wet, or for refusing water-supply to the lands ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer, Madura division, does not mention the reason or justify his action for refusing supply of water to certain lands for the information of the party and the Revenue Department ; and

(*f*) if so, whether the Government will in future instruct the officer to specify the reasons for refusing supply of water ?

A.—(*a*) Under the larger irrigation systems the general distribution of water is controlled by the irrigation staff, but not the detailed distribution from field to field.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Where procedure by water application is in use, the applications are dealt with on the basis of sufficiency of supply, possibility of command and any special factors which would prejudicially affect permanent wet lands or other public interests. Subject to these necessary considerations it is the definite policy of Government to extend irrigation to the largest possible area.

(*e*) & (*f*) It is not possible to give an adequate reply without specific instances, but if it is considered that in any district water applications are unreasonably refused the Chief Engineer will enquire into the matter if specific instances are given.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" Sir, with regard to clause (*f*) I am referring to the Madura district, and I want the reasons should be given so that the applicant may appeal to the higher authorities. Moreover, if the reasons are not given in the application it will be impossible to find out whether the application is based on proper grounds."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I shall consider that matter, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" One of the factors taken into account in these matters is the sufficiency of water. May I know if, when an application for water is granted, the Governmenut guarantee the supply of water ?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" No, Sir. "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if, as a result of these applications, there is really any appreciable change in the extent of land under cultivation either under first crop or under second crop ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I want notice, Sir."